



THE

"ROAD RUNNER"

A WSACE and CRAB Newsletter

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December 2001 Presidential Proclamation #1 by Randy Casteel, P.E.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those that helped put together our legislative conference agenda and participated in presentations. Also, to those members that attended and participated in the conference. I would like to remind all of you that our organization has been and will continue to be an effective voice for a high standard of service to the public in county road and public works issues. The participation of each member adds to our strength and effectiveness as an organization. The WSACE Executive Committee and our Membership Committee (Pete Ringen, Chair) would like to remind you that if you have individuals in your organizations that are not members yet, now is the time to sign them up. Membership in the Washington State Association of County Engineers offers the following benefits:

- Obtaining timely information from state agencies such as CRAB and WSDOT that will help you to work more effectively.
- Opportunities to influence legislation and policies, particularly at the state level.
- Opportunity to grow professionally by participating in annual professional development conferences,
- and by assuming positions of leadership within the organization.

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(Presidential Proclamation continued)

- Connectivity with the National Association of County Engineers, and benefits of a unified voice at a national level on issues effecting county government.
- Opportunity to get to know and work with accomplished professionals from around the state on a variety of issues that effect county road and public works departments.

Please give strong consideration to signing up a new member, in attending the Professional Development Conference at the Skamania Lodge in January, in attending the Summer Convention at Bellevue in June, and in participating on one of the various WSACE committees when asked.

The WSACE Professional Development Conference is being held at Skamania Lodge January 30 to February 1, 2002. Kit Welchlin, of Welchlin Communications Strategies of Minnesota, will be

our speaker. Our membership has generally requested that the program be focused on Management topics, therefore, the program agenda has been built around the topics of Leadership, Communications, Organizational Issues, and Personal Development. This is shaping up to be a great conference so plan on attending. The WSACE Executive Committee approved providing up to five scholarships (one for each of five counties, first come basis), as we did last year, to those counties that would not be able to attend without the assistance. So sign up now and for those interested in a scholarship, give me a call.

Now for my proclamation – I hereby proclaim, as approved by the WSACE Executive Committee, the appointment of Jerry Hauth, Mason County, to the position of Secretary/Treasurer of WSACE. Congratulations Jerry!!

Jay Armstrong Retires!

For those who may not have already heard, November 30 marked Jay Armstrong's last day with us at CRAB. Jay has served as CRAB's Deputy Director since July 21, 1995 when he was enticed to the agency with the promise of "join CRAB and see the world, one county at a time!" He came; he saw; he prospered.

As engineers do, he also became accustomed to managing all those "other duties as assigned", and kept CRAB and the counties informed as ESA, stormwater, fish passage, and a host of other topics began to emerge and morph into transportation issues. He has been a familiar face at the various tables where these issues have been addressed, and his efforts to keep the counties' interests and special needs recognized have proven to be as effective as they were arduous. For that, we are all in his debt.

On a more mundane level, Jay's duties included the day-to-day management of our engineering services division, including RAP, CAPP, Road Log, and Special Projects. His soft touch management style of coaching and mentoring is a particular hallmark of his tenure, and the efficiency of these programs testify to his abilities as a manager. In addition to these management responsibilities, he successfully introduced CRAB's maintenance initiative and developed a greater statewide presence for us by establishing our eastern Washington virtual office.

It's that eastern Washington office thing that probably did it! He had heard the rumor of actual sunshine rather than sun breaks, and after the purchase of sunglasses and various sunblockers, decided it was true. As he takes up new duties and challenges in Okanogan County, those of us at CRAB wish him the very best, and thank him for his years of distinguished service here.

Steady RAP Payout Rates Make Sense

The RAP regions have been working to program their RAP projects out to 2006 in keeping with the rate that revenue accrues to the RATA. Facing the upcoming 2003 – 2005 biennium allocation period, the CRABoard, through regional and quarterly meetings is considering ways to slow down allocation and allow the account to catch up with the amount obligated to projects. Some of the options are:

- ✓ Allocate the next biennial revenue estimate (\$38,000,000) over a 4-year period.
- ✓ Allocate 150% of the next biennial revenue estimate (\$57,000,000) over a 4-year period. (Allocation would be done in 1/3 increments, over the 4 years)
- ✓ Let withdrawals and underrun funds stay in the account; allowing project attrition to help the account catch up with the obligation amounts.

Further adjustments may be needed in future years.

The last suggestion seems to be the most supported and least intrusive.

A record number of RAP project submittals were offered for the annual report this year, and unfortunately we were only able to include less than half of them. They were all great projects and will be featured on the "Projects" page of CRAB's website

We're hoping to make the RAP prospectus submittal a fully online process, but are taking it one region at a time. This will ensure consistency in project ratings, and reduce paperwork on both ends. The cover sheet will still need a commissioner's signature; but everything else will be a matter of a few choice keystrokes.

Maintenance Management Project Report

Based upon recent proposals, counties are being asked to demonstrate the effectiveness of their maintenance programs. Use of a Maintenance Management System (MMS) is a way for counties to document characteristics of their maintenance programs and to communicate maintenance program effectiveness to the public, employees and other agencies.

In order to understand how the various elements of a formal MMS relate to existing procedures now being used in the counties, a survey of maintenance management was conducted. The survey form was sent to counties and was used as the basis for further discussions concerning the use of maintenance management. The intent was to gather information on the county's use of a MMS by comparing elements of a formal maintenance management system with practices currently being undertaken at the county.

The results of the survey indicated that a wide range of maintenance practices are in use throughout the state. Every county practices some form of maintenance management; however, the level of formality and the availability of information related to maintenance operations vary widely. Use of a formal MMS can provide more consistent documentation and

reporting of maintenance activities and is recommended.

During the upcoming phase of CRAB's Maintenance Management Project, the following areas will be addressed:

- Work with counties to provide the elements of a formal maintenance management system.... planning, organizing, directing and controlling.
- Address reporting and data entry and the interface with the accounting system.

Describe the features of a formal maintenance management system and discuss with counties. Note—an overview of maintenance management is presented in the recently updated "County Engineers and Public Works Directors Manual" prepared by CRAB.

The 2001 Road Design Conference (RDC) Wrap Up

The RDC attendance tops 90 - Largest in 5 years! Engineer's, Surveyor's, CAD manager's, design team manager's and others involved in transportation services gathered for the RDC 2001, in Olympia October 3rd – 5th.

For the past 12 years, CRAB has sponsored this conference to give the counties an opportunity to experience various new kinds of technology, hear presentations related to everyday duties and responsibilities, and check out the vendor's exhibits. This year's conference featured software industry speakers including Eagle Point, CAiCE, AutoDesk, Etterra, PacifiCAD and Portland Precision Inc. We heard from WSDOT's Assistant Secretary for Engineering & Regional Operations, John Conrad and from Jerry Alb, the state's Director of Environmental Affairs. Also, back by popular demand, was Frank Catalano, TV KCPQ13 technical editor, who shared with us his presentation on *When Good Gadgets Go Bad* - a humorous and interesting look at hi-tech gadgets which help to break up the seriousness of the software presentations, which he did successfully, again.

We were all very impressed by the presentation from Franklin County's Matt Mahoney and Craig Erdman. They did an excellent job on their presentation of a CAiCE designed project success story. With Matt doing the talking and Craig doing all the hard work on the computer, lol, they gave the audience a comprehensive overview of how they're able to tackle a roadway design for the first time using CAiCE software. Great job Matt and Craig!

Something new we tried this year was the computer-based-training breakout sessions. This was our attempt to give the conference attendees actual "hands-on" experience of using the software that the vendor's were presenting on. Even though it was limited in scope, we feel that it went over very good with the people that participated in the sessions, so we may try this again at next year's conference.

We at CRAB want to thank everyone in attendance at this year's conference for making it an excellent venue for transportation professionals to gather to see and

hear about new technologies that effect the way we work. Even more important, is the exchange of information and the networking that occurs between us all. Not only was there information that covered many people's interests during the conference, but the non-engineering exchange between the attendees was a great thing to see. It is at these kinds of gatherings, where the presenters, the vendor's and the topics become just a part of the reason to attend.

If you didn't get a chance to attend the 2001 RDC this year, be sure to watch for information regarding the 2002 RDC next year. Don't miss out on next year's premier Road Design Conference education experience!

Employment Opportunities

Douglas County – GIS Coordinator

Douglas County Transportation and Land Services has an opening for a GIS Coordinator based in the East Wenatchee office. Salary range is \$3,495 to \$3,950 per month, depending on qualifications, attractive benefits package. This is a technical position requiring skill and competence in GIS development and maintenance, engineering design, computer aided drafting (CAD), land surveying, and graphic communication. Requirements include but are not limited to a completed application and resume and a valid WA State drivers license.

Applications and job descriptions are available at Douglas County Transportation & Land Services, 470 Ninth N. E. East Wenatchee, WA 98802, (509) 884-7173, Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. or at the county shops in East Wenatchee, Waterville and Mansfield Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., or on our website at www.douglascountywa.net. Position is open until filled. Douglas County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, treatment, or employment in its programs or activities. ADA accommodations available upon request. E.O.E.

Dates to Remember

December 2001

13-14 WAPA, Seattle
25 Christmas - Observed

January 2002

1 New Year's Day - Observed
10-11 CRABoard Mtg, Olympia
18 WSAC Steering Comm., Olympia
21 King's Birthday - Observed
30 WSACE Executive Board Mtg,
Skamania Lodge
30-Feb 1 WSACE Professional Development Conf.,
Skamania Lodge
31 WSAC Steering Comm., Olympia

February 2002

15 WSAC Steering Comm., Olympia
18 President's Day - Observed

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Roadlog Update Season Is Here!!!

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It is once again time to update your Roadlog and get it in to us. Same procedure as the past, all changes during calendar year 2001 need to be entered into CRIS and the documentation and maps sent in. Dave will be sending out information to the Roadlog Managers on this year's update.

**** If you would like to be removed from the Road Runner Newsletter mailing list, please contact Cheryl Heinemeyer. She can be reached at: Phone – (360) 753-5989; e-mail Cheryl@crab.wa.gov; fax – (360) 586-0386.**

